

AHMET BURAK AKTAS

aburakaktas.com // burak@aburakaktas.com // <https://www.linkedin.com/in/aburakaktas>

EXPERIENCE

SpiroHome // Ankara, Turkey

Product Manager // 2017 - Ongoing

- Leading a team of designers and engineers to create a connected healthcare device and service.

IIT Institute of Design // Chicago, IL

Teaching Assistant // 2016 - 2017

- Assisted graduate level course "Product Design Workshop".
- Worked as workshop manager to help students use digital and conventional fabrication tools.

SpiroHome // Ankara, Turkey

Partner - Product / Interaction Designer // 2014 - 2016

- Founding partner of start-up located in the biggest technopark in Turkey focusing on design and production of an innovative personal pulmonary health monitoring device.
- Provided user research, ideation, product strategy, product and interaction design, user experience design and prototyping.
- Won several grants from government and entrepreneurship competitions.

METU Industrial Design Department // Ankara, Turkey

Research / Teaching Assistant - Usability Researcher // 2013 - 2015

- Developed a government-funded project focusing on improving blood donation system in Turkey using design thinking methods.
- Worked as a part-time usability researcher for various start-ups.
- Assisted product design studio classes as a teaching assistant and taught CAD software to undergraduate students.

Metaphys & Hers Experimental Design Lab // Osaka, Japan

Industrial Design Intern // 2012

- Contributed to design process of several products. Contributions included ideation, concept development, 3D modeling and prototyping.
- Developed a personal "social design" concept which was presented at Kyoto University of Art and Design.

Turk Traktor Inc. Case & New Holland // Ankara, Turkey

Intern at R&D Design Department // 2011

- Gained experience and working knowledge on metal mass-production techniques and worked with production engineers.

EDUCATION

IIT Institute of Design // Chicago, IL

Master of Design // 2015 - 2017

- Focused on interaction design, design research and innovation strategy.

Middle East Technical University // Ankara, Turkey

MS in Industrial Design // 2013 - 2015 (Transferred Out)

- Focused on interaction design, interactive prototyping using embedded systems, and social innovation.

Middle East Technical University // Ankara, Turkey

Bachelor of Industrial Design // 2009 - 2013

- Graduated with highest honors.
- Developed "AquaKit" which is a product system for villagers living without water plumbing system. The project won several international design awards, won a grant from UNDP and exhibited in Tokyo and Istanbul.

LANGUAGES

Turkish - Native, English - Fluent, Japanese - Elementary

I am a designer with a passion for creating experiences that makes life more meaningful. I enjoy being at the intersection of design and technology, and I get my energy from creativity.

SKILLS

Software

3D: Rhinoceros 3D, Grasshopper, SolidWorks, 3ds Max, V-Ray, KeyShot, T-Splines

2D: Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Experience Design, Balsamiq Mockups, Tableau, After Effects, Premiere, Muse

Coding

Arduino, HTML / CSS, D3.js

Learning: Python, Processing, JavaScript

Workshop

3D printing, Laser cutting, Sewing, Soldering, Clay modeling, Styrofoam, Plastic thermoforming, Wood, Metal

AWARDS + SCHOLARSHIPS

2015 - 2017 **Fulbright Scholarship**, for master's degree

2015 - 2017 **Doblin Fellowship**, for attending IIT Institute of Design

2014 **Bogazici Uni. Entrepreneurship Awards**, First Rank

2014 **YFYI Entrepreneurship Awards**, Finalist

2014 **UNDP Every Drop Matters Water Awards**, First Rank

2014 **TUBITAK Entrepreneurship and Innovation Awards**, First Rank

2014 **International Design Excellence Awards**, Bronze

2014 **Ghost Project**, Winner

2014 **The Dieline Awards**, Third Rank

2014 **iF Concept Design Awards**, Shortlisted

2014 **Automotive Component Design Awards**, First Rank

2014 **Cardboard Package Design Awards**, Mention

2013 **WPO Worldstar Student Awards**, Mention

2013 **ASD National Packaging Design Awards**, Mention

2013 **IDEA**, Finalist

2013 **A' Design Award**, Silver

2012 **iF Concept Design Awards**, Winner

2011 **IMMIB National Design Awards**, Mention

2010 **WPO Worldstar Student Awards**, Mention

2010 **ASD National Packaging Design Awards**, Mention

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Chicago Student Invention Convention // 2017

I volunteered as an "Invention Judge" to evaluate and provide feedback to K-8 students on their designs and inventions.

Ideal - Student-led design swarm for local companies // 2017

I led the product design team to create solutions for Healthy Soil Compost, a start up in Chicago that collects organic waste using bikes.

Darussafaka Schools x Children's Research Center // 2015

I taught design thinking to middle school students for Children as Researchers class and helped them create prototypes using 3D printers.

EXHIBITIONS // PRESS

2015 Sheepard // **Ankara Maker Faire**

2014 AquaKit // **Innovation Magazine**, Fall Issue

2014 Spaghet-i // **Paris Emballage Fair**

2014 Guide and EcoStand // **Turkey Innovation Week**

2013 Washit and AquaKit // **Tokyo Designers Week**

2013 Washit // **Fast Company Magazine**, March Issue

2013 Flora // **CNR-Expo Office Fair**

2012 Washit // **Turkey Innovation Week**

2012 Washit // **DailyMail**

2012 Washit // **Fast Co.Exist**